

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a workshop on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at Town Hall, 254 Main Street, Highland Falls, NY 10928 at 7:30pm.

PRESENT:	Edward Magryta	----	Supervisor
	Holly Gokey	----	Council Member
	Mervin R. Livsey, Jr.	----	Council Member
	Laurie R. Tautel	----	Council Member
	William Edsall	----	Council Member
	Justin Rider	----	Counsel
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk

Supervisor Magryta opened the workshop at 7:30pm.

Supervisor Magryta asked for a moment of silence for the victims in Haiti.

Supervisor Magryta notified everyone that former Supervisor Quaintance was in an accident, she is in Cornwall Hospital in stable condition. The Supervisor and Board wished Mrs. Quaintance a speedy recovery.

Council Member Tautel asked the Supervisor if it would be possible for the agenda to be made available three (3) days prior to the meeting so the Board would have time to research items that were to be brought up. Ms. Tautel stated that she received phone calls from employees that were concerned about the issue of time capture. Ms. Tautel asked Supervisor Magryta not to speak on behalf of the Board unless he has heard from the Board Members on that particular issue.

Supervisor Magryta said that for the formal meetings there will be an agenda available in advance and he will make an effort to provide an agenda for the workshops sooner.

Council Member Edsall said that in regards to the personnel issue he would like to be more careful when discussing certain line items in the budget.

Supervisor Magryta said that if an issue falls within the 7 acceptable reasons to have an executive session, then one will be held.

Justin Rider said that if a line item is specific to an individual than the Board is within its right to go into an Executive Session.

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Supervisor Magryta has received positive and negative responses to last week's meetings. The Supervisor is also getting tremendous feedback from the community.

Supervisor Magryta will be putting Public Comment at the beginning of the meeting instead of the end.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor D'Onofrio reminded the Board that the deadline for the grant is February 24.

Council Member Tautel asked the Mayor to call her so they can set up a time to meet.

Andy Schmar from Hudson Highlands Trust gave the Board some information.

Supervisor Magryta thanked Mr. Schmar for the information.

James Grant said he is on a fixed income and would like to see taxes cut.

Supervisor Magryta thanked him for his comments and assured him that the Board will do everything they can to cut taxes.

ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS

Supervisor Magryta said that at the last meeting there was a discussion about the cost of the hotels in NYC.

Council Member Gokey researched the prices and reports that the Hilton and Sheraton are \$209 while the Flathotel is \$255.

Supervisor Magryta asked the Board if they have come to a conclusion about the Association of Town's meeting.

Council Member Edsall would be willing to put a cap on the amount spent.

Supervisor Magryta said that \$8,000 was spent last year.

Council Member Edsall suggested authorizing \$5,000 instead of \$8,000.

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Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to set a ceiling of \$4,000 on the expenses for the Association of Towns Meeting and Training School in February.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Livsey, Tautel, Edsall)
0-nays**

EMPLOYEE TIME CAPTURE

Supervisor Magryta asked the Board if they had anything to add to the employee time capture issue.

Council Member Tautel handed out an example of a time sheet that another state agency uses. Ms. Tautel suggested a daily sign in sheet be used to cross reference the time cards.

Council Member Livsey still believes that a time clock is the best solution and he will look into it.

Supervisor Magryta carried this issue over for future discussion.

APPOINTMENTS

Supervisor Magryta thinks that specific appointments should be discussed in Executive Session should. The Supervisor would like to have a complete understanding of the positions to make a decision on the appointments.

Council Member Tautel said that if a person has been employed by the Town for 10 years, they would have an employee file with their information in it.

ZONING CHANGE

Supervisor Magryta was informed, by a principle in the Miller project, that he was unaware of the proposed zoning change and was not happy about it. The Supervisor would like to make sure that all parties know what is going on.

Supervisor Magryta spoke to Sandy Pankin and informed him that he would need to provide the Board with more information regarding his requested zoning change at Corbin Hill.

Council Member Gokey said that the Town ZBA and County ZBA disapproved some re-zoning because it was not in the best interest of the community.

Justin Rider said that the ZBA was referred this matter and it was the County Department of Planning, not the County ZBA. Mr. Rider also said that the Planning Board has discussed the Corbin Hill project in detail, but not the Miller project.

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Council Member Edsall would like to suspend the Miller project indefinitely.

Supervisor Magryta would like to move forward with Local Law #7 of 2009 which is the R-5 Density law.

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey that until further consideration on the principal sellers and a meeting with them and Mr. Miller's conflict, that the Public Hearing on Local Law #6, the local law to re-zone 1158 Route 9W, be postponed until further notice.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Livsey, Tautel, Edsall)
0-nays**

WORK HOURS/2% RAISE/LINE ITEMS

Supervisor Magryta said the Treasurer issue and Town Clerk issue have been satisfied.

Highway Department

Supervisor Magryta asked for a follow-up on the Highway transfer discussed at the last workshop.

Council Member Gokey explained that the money should have been put in the highway budget instead of being transferred.

Supervisor Magryta said the actual highway budget is higher than it appears.

Council Member Tautel explained that the money was just in the wrong spot.

Supervisor Magryta said that he needs more information on the amount.

Assessor

Supervisor Magryta brought up the issue of the Star money.

Council Member Edsall said he would prefer to discuss this in executive session.

Disaster Preparedness

The Disaster Preparedness issue will also be discussed in executive session.

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Police Department

Council Member Tautel said the money was not for the vests, it was for the contractual system mandated by the County and an anti-virus program.

Supervisor Magryta questioned the increase in the Police personnel services budget at the last workshop.

Council Member Gokey said that it is because part of the IT's salary is now in the police budget.

Unused Vacation

Supervisor Magryta said that the Department Heads will need to justify the reason for buying back unused vacation.

Audit Expense

Council Member Edsall would like to see the Town get an audit for less than \$53,000.

Supervisor Magryta will keep a close eye on it and discuss it further as needed.

Elections

Supervisor Magryta reported that Town Clerk Patterson was able to eliminate \$1,500 from the elections budget and may be able to eliminate another \$10,000.

Work Hours

Supervisor Magryta will send out a memo about the ½ hour lunch.

2% Raise

Supervisor Magryta said that the Board discussed asking the Department Heads to forgo taking a 2% raise and asked if anyone had anything to add to that.

Council Member Edsall said the Board worked hard on the budget and agreed to a 2% raise across the board.

Next Workshop

After much discussion, Supervisor Magryta scheduled the next workshops for Thursday, January 21 and, if needed, Friday, January 22. Both will be held at 7:30pm.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Debra Kopald asked if the Board would consider having the businesses recycle.

Council Member Tautel informed Ms. Kopald that some businesses are already recycling.

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to go into Executive Session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. The Board went into executive session at 9:40pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Livsey, Tautel, Edsall)
0-nays

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to close the executive session. Executive session closed at 11:20pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Livsey, Tautel, Edsall)
0-nays

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to adjourn the workshop. Workshop adjourned at 11:22pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Livsey, Tautel, Edsall)
0-nays